

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

I. CLAIM STATUS AND AMENDMENTS

Claims 1-11 were pending in this application when last examined.

Claims 1-11 were examined on the merits and stand rejected.

Claim 1 is amended herein to clarify the claimed invention. Support for this amendment may be found in the specification on page 8, lines 21-25

The specification is amended herein on page 18, line 24, to correct a typographical error.

No new matter has been added.

II. OBVIOUSNESS REJECTION

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 02-151677 (Abstract cited by Examiner).

The invention of claim 1 is directed to a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet, which comprises an adhesive layer laminated on a substrate, wherein the adhesive layer is formed from a cured product of an adhesive composition comprising polyether polymer (A) having at least one alkenyl group on the terminal, compound (B) having 1-10 hydrosilyl groups in a molecule and hydrosilylation catalyst (C), wherein the molar ratio of the hydrosilyl group/alkenyl group is controlled to be within the range of 0.3-0.8.

The claimed invention provides a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for skin adhesion that can be formed without using an organic solvent, that can be easily adhered to skin, that does not irritate skin easily, and that does not damage stratum corneum easily by controlling the molar ratio of the hydrosilyl group/alkenyl group to be within 0.3-0.8 (see present English specification, page 2, lines 22-26).

In this regard, attention is drawn to Tables 1 and 2 of the present specification. As illustrated in Table 2, the adhesive composition of Comparative Example 1 showed the area ratio of damaged stratum corneum to be 80%, even though the destruction state was interfacial failure. As illustrated in Tables 1 and 2, each adhesive composition in Examples 1 – 12 had the molar

ratio of the hydrosilyl group/alkenyl group of 0.3-0.8, whereby an interfacial failure occurred in Examples 1 – 12 and each adhesive layer in Examples 1 – 12 showed the area ratio of damaged stratum corneum to be only 5 - 10%.

As previously described, the claimed invention provides a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet that obtains an extremely advantageous sticking characteristic when adhered to skin, and that can be manufactured easily.

In contrast, JP 02-151677 teaches that a problem of insufficient adhesion between a cured product of a hydrosilylation reaction curable composition and a plastic, in particular between a dental impression material made of a hydrosilylation reaction curable composition and a plastic tray is solved by an adhesive composition comprising (A) an alkenyl group-containing polyether having an average molecular weight of 10,000 – 5,000,000, (B) an organic solvent, and (C) a platinum compound catalyst as claimed (Abstract and full text of JP 02-151677, page 601, left column, line 3 from the bottom to page 602, upper right column, line 6).

JP 02-151677 states that a typical example of a hydrosilylation reaction curable composition is a composition comprising: (A) a linear or branched polyether having an alkenyl group on the terminal; (B) a linear or branched polyether comprising a polyorganosiloxane residue having one or more Si-H groups on the terminal, and two or more Si-H groups in a molecule; and (C) at least one catalyst selected from the group consisting of platinum, chloroplatinic acid, and a platinum complex, wherein the molar ratio of the Si-H group in component (B) / total alkenyl groups within the composition is 0.5-10 (see page 603, lower right column, line 7 to page 604, upper left column, line 3).

It is certain that a cured product of the adhesive composition constituting an adhesive layer of a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet according to the claimed invention is closely related chemically to a cured product of a hydrosilylation reaction curable composition disclosed in JP 02-151677.

The Examiner holds that while the JP 02-151677 Abstract is silent about forming an adhesive layer laminated on a substrate, depositing an adhesive composition on a substrate to form an adhesive material is common knowledge, and it would have been an obvious modification to one of ordinary skill in the art to do so.

However, it is intended that a hydrosilylation reaction curable composition disclosed within JP 02-151677 is particularly used as a dental impression material (see page 604, lower left column, lines 9 - 10), and, in general, a dental impression material is not used in the form of a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet. Accordingly, laminating a hydrosilylation reaction curable composition disclosed within JP 02-151677 on a substrate to form a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Further, JP 02-151677 makes no mention of the problem to be solved by the claimed invention, i.e., provision of a pressure-sensitive adhesive sheet for skin adhesion that can be easily adhered to skin, that does not irritate skin easily, and that does not damage stratum corneum easily.

As discussed above, the claimed invention applies a constitution that is not disclosed in JP 02-151677, and thereby generates an effect that is not predictable from the invention described in JP 02-151677 in order to solve the problems that are not taught by the invention described in JP 02-151677. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not obvious over the invention in JP 02-151677 and that the obviousness rejection should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

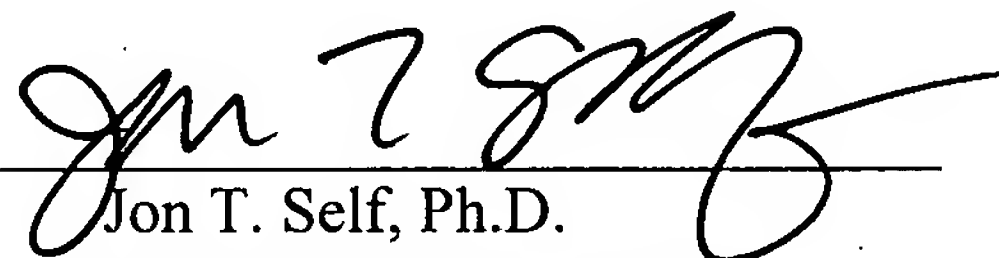
In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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